no circumstances which would lead me to desire an attack
of typhoid. There are many circumstances under which
I should welcome the incision of the surgeon's knife. I
can find another analogy in the history of our own country.
In 1866 Canada was given the choice between poverty and
absorption into the United States. She chose the former,
though it is a grievous evil, and chose rightly; for a nation
resembles a woman in this, that neither can sell her honour
for a bit of bread. In that case the endurance of the poverty
caused by a collapse of our trade was a necessary evil which
our fathers were obliged to undergo.

Apart from those more general considerations, there
is the plain and simple fact that war may be forced on us.
We should abolish capital punishment if the murderers
only would begin. In 1812, the conduct of the Canadian
people was absolutely inoffensive; yet they were assailed.
In part the whole Anglo-American war was a by-product
of the colossal Napoleonic struggle. In part the invasion
of Canada was a by-product of the Anglo-American maritime
quarrel. In part the attack on our forefathers was the
result of a desire to annex our country. What could our
forefathers have done to evade the war?

I put forward another consideration. Is the aversion
to war of which we hear a great deal wholly due to humane
feeling; or is some portion of it due to a mere desire to
continue to make money? I do not wish to undervalue
the making of money, which is a distinct duty and perfectly
laudable if we keep it duly subordinated; but it must be
subordinated to the moral and spiritual sides of our life.
Canada could have made more money by acquiescing in the
American invasion of 1812. Great Britain has definitely
declared that she will help to maintain Belgium as an in-
dependent country. If Belgium were to be seized by Germany,
several consequences would ensue; one would be that the
Belgians would undergo that imponderable but dreadful
calamity, the loss of independence and national individuality;
the lot of the individual Belgians probably would be less